GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4122
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013
GROUNDWATER QUALITY
Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently conducted any surveys on quality of groundwater and its use in rural areas especially in backward areas in the country, including Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan prepared for the backward areas to ensure the availability of safe groundwater?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources regularly monitors ground water quality of shallow aquifers on regional scale once every year during April/May through a network of 10714 observation wells located throughout the Country including backward areas of the country. As per ground water quality data generated during various scientific studies and ground water quality monitoring, ground water in various States including Jharkhand is contaminated by Salinity, Fluoride, Iron, Nitrate and heavy metals like Lead. Eight States have excess concentration of Arsenic, 19 States have higher concentration of Fluoride, 20 States with higher concentration of Nitrate and 23 States have higher concentration of Iron beyond prescribed norms. State/ UT-wise details are at Annexure. There are also reports of sporadic occurrence of heavy metals like Lead, Chromium, Cadmium and Manganese in the ground water in 13 States. Arsenic, Fluoride and Iron are mostly due to natural geological occurrence. Nitrate and heavy metals are both due to natural geological occurrence and man-made activities like mining, industry and waste disposal.

(c) Since in situ treatment of contaminated aquifers is difficult, remedial measures are concentrated on providing alternate sources of water supply. The CGWB assists in identifying aquifers which are free from contaminants in the States, including backward areas.